

Message Text

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R 261550Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, KS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AAFLI REP TO KOREA

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE ASIAN-AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE (AAFLI) THAT DIRECTOR FOR FIELD OPERATIONS, ROBERT WHOLEY WILL BE VISITING KOREA APPROXIMATELY APRIL 28 TO MAY 2. ALTHOUGH HIS OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE WILL BE TO LOOK INTO AAFLI OPERATIONS IN KOREA, WE UNDERSTAND FROM A NON-AAFLI SOURCE THAT A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF HIS VISIT WILL BE TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE TONGIL TEXTILE DISPUTE IN ORDER TO MAKE A REPORT ON IT TO AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY. SEVERAL RELIGIOUS FIGURES HAVE RECENTLY COMPLAINED TO PRESIDENT MEANY, AND TO DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY HOWARD SAMUEL, ILAB-DOL, ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF THE TONGIL GIRLS. THEY LEFT WITH BOTH PERSONS COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EXCREMENT THROWING EPISODE. WE HAVE GIVEN THE AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT AN INFORMAL BRIEFING ON THE CASE AND DEVELOPMENTS
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IN IT - TAKING CARE TO POINT OUT ITS SENSITIVITIES AND COMPLICATIONS.

2. PRESIDENT MEANY HAS TAKEN A GREAT INTEREST IN THIS CASE AND CONSIDERED SENDING A SPECIAL DELEGATION TO KOREA

TO LOOK INTO IT. SINCE WHOLEY HAPPENED TO BE PLANNING

TO TRAVEL TO KOREA ANYWAY, ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY AT A
LATER DATE, IT WAS DECIDED HE SHOULD GO NOW AND GATHER
AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON THE CASE.

3. IF WHOLEY DOES NOT CONTACT EMBASSY ON ARRIVAL, SUGGEST
LABOR ATTACHE CONTACT HIM AND OFFER ASSISTANCE.

4. WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THE EMBASSY'S DETAILED AND
USEFUL REPORTING ON THIS CASE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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